

## ULI District Council Curtis Infrastructure Initiative Grant

### District Council Partnership and Funding Opportunity Statement of Interest

**“The sooner that [ULI members] get involved to make a difference, the more fulfilled they will feel not only with their involvement with ULI but also with their own firms in terms of how they start looking at every project they do; they understand every choice makes a difference.”**

—James J. Curtis III, ULI Life Trustee

### About the Curtis Infrastructure Initiative

Thanks to a generous donation from Jim Curtis, ULI launched the Curtis Infrastructure initiative. This multi-year initiative aims to build a movement to promote infrastructure solutions that are equitable and resilient and that enhance long-term community value. By creating new global and strategic partnerships, providing technical assistance, building capacity at the local level, and acting as a feedback loop to promote the most innovative and effective best practices, the Curtis Infrastructure Initiative will ensure the success of ULI’s mission to positively shape the future of the built environment for transformative impact in communities worldwide. A thoughtful approach to infrastructure planning and implementation addresses the pressing needs of today and improves diverse communities for the long term.

A building block for communities everywhere, infrastructure encompasses transportation, critical utilities, and the means of communication. But beyond these foundational physical and digital structures and facilities, infrastructure broadly includes the key spaces that build community—anchor institutions, the civic commons, and housing. Because infrastructure provides the means for connection, creative placemaking, and opportunity, smart infrastructure investment is an imperative for our cities now and in the future.

Together we can build the future of equitable and resilient communities. Learn more about the Curtis Infrastructure Initiative at [uli.org/infrastructure](http://uli.org/infrastructure).

### About the 2020-2021 District Council Infrastructure Cohort

In 2020, the Curtis Infrastructure Initiative partnered with six District Councils across North America to provide technical assistance as part of a cohort to help build capacity to reconnect divided communities—physically, socially, and digitally. This cohort of ULI members and staff, local leaders, and other global experts meets regularly over the course of a year to identify key issues, share best practices, and provide updates on projects to support each other in addressing complex infrastructure challenges. Visit the Curtis Infrastructure’s Capacity Building page to learn about the 2020-2021 projects: <https://americas.uli.org/research/centers-initiatives/infrastructure-initiative/capacity-building/>.

Curtis infrastructure Initiative staff worked with non-selected District Council projects to identify other funding opportunities through ULI or other entities to help them begin their projects. It is encouraged to apply to this program since it enables HQ staff to understand District Council project priority areas and help find additional resources to support creative proposals.

## The Opportunity

**The ULI Curtis Infrastructure Initiative seeking District Council proposals for technical assistance and capacity building that address common infrastructure challenges where public/private partnerships can facilitate local actions, policies, and practices to enable more equitable and resilient investments that enhance long-term community value.**

This opportunity, led by the Curtis Infrastructure Initiative, will grant \$15,000 to four District Councils to launch a cohort of technical assistance projects over the course of a year. These projects are intended to provide recommendations and take local action to address complex infrastructure challenges. This is an exciting opportunity for ULI members to leverage their leadership positions to help accelerate the implementation of critical infrastructure solutions while growing their networks of other members and communities facing similar issues. Additional calls for year-long proposals will occur in 2022.

Proposals should focus on creating impact through the implementation of a plan of action resulting in outcomes such as shifts in policy and practice, change in community/industry prioritization, change in design/planning, and/or new infrastructure projects. For example, this plan of action could be generated as a result of the proposal through a TAP, workshop or District Council convened Task Force or assist in the implementation of an existing plan of action. District Council proposals must demonstrate support and buy-in by a local jurisdiction and/or implementing agency (e.g., BID, MPO, or Utility). Joint District Council proposals will be considered. This is not intended to be a research program but instead result in plan of action which will be documented in a final report.

**Figure 1: Best Proposal Statement of Interest Inclusion**

<b>Required</b>	<b>Beneficial</b>
Defined specific local infrastructure need where public/private partnerships can facilitate improved outcomes	District Council match (e.g., In-kind, sponsor, member, philanthropic, other)
High level goal with key steps outlined (e.g., TAP, workshop, etc.) and key member champions identified	Beyond financial, identified support needed from ULI HQ (e.g., policy brief research, national expertise, modeling, etc.)
“Sponsor” or supportive organizational partner that can act as an implementor (i.e., identified implementing agency)	Addresses ULI global member infrastructure priority areas of increasing housing affordability, climate change, green energy, maintenance, and public transportation
Additional partner organizations and/or coalition support	Aligns with other ULI HQ initiatives (e.g., resilience, equity, healthy places, investment/finance)
Willing participant in national cohort (including ULI Members)	Aligns with ULI partner organizations such as the Smart Growth Network
Simple Budget (staff time, meetings, etc.)	Understanding of what renewal could support

Selected District Council proposals will form a cohort comprised of ULI members, local leaders, and other global experts to meet regularly to identify key issues, share best practices, and provide project support/technical assistance. The cohort will be convened based on the proposals selected. This work will be informed by research undertaken by ULI and other organizations, summarized in issue briefs drafted by the ULI Curtis Infrastructure Initiative.

Lessons learned and best practices identified as part of this grant opportunity will be incorporated into Curtis Infrastructure Initiative research focused on developing practical tools to implement equitable and resilient infrastructure that enhances long-term community value.

<b>Figure 2: Curtis Infrastructure Initiative District Council Opportunity Timeline</b>	
August 2, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement of Interest (SOI) Released</li> </ul>
September 15, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOIs Due</li> </ul>
September 15-28, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff Review</li> </ul>
September 28-October 14, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Board Review</li> </ul>
Mid-Late October 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District Councils Selected and Notified</li> </ul>
Late October-December, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cohorts Formed and Convened</li> <li>• Project Scope and Deliverables Identified</li> <li>• Supplemental Research</li> </ul>
December 16, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure and Land Use Exchange (open to all District Councils)</li> </ul>
January-April, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cohort Meets January 13, 2022</li> <li>• Supplemental Research</li> <li>• Technical Assistance Conducted</li> </ul>
May-July, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cohort Meets May 12, 2022</li> <li>• Technical Assistance Conducted</li> </ul>
August-September, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cohort Meets August 11, 2022</li> <li>• Year 3 Grant Submissions</li> <li>• Technical Assistance Conducted</li> </ul>
October 2021-December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cohort Meets December 8, 2022</li> <li>• Completion Year 2 Proposal</li> <li>• Year 3 Projects Awarded</li> </ul>

## Funding and Logistics

District Councils will receive \$15,000 to support the costs of participating in this project. Funding may be renewed for additional years on select projects contingent on approval from the Curtis Infrastructure Initiative Global Advisory Board. Proposals should indicate outcomes that would be achieved with additional funding. Grant funding may be used to support ULI staff time, meeting expenses, and other project costs. ULI Curtis Infrastructure Initiative staff will coordinate the cohort in partnership which would require approximately 10 hours of time annually. If an in-person meeting occurs, it would likely be at the ULI Fall meeting in Dallas, Texas. Additional time would be required to coordinate the technical assistance project.

## Eligibility for Participation

This is a global opportunity. The ULI Curtis Infrastructure Initiative hopes to fund at least one project outside of the United States. Project proposals do not need to be fully developed in order to apply for this grant opportunity. The ULI Curtis Infrastructure Initiative will work with selected awardees to refine the project scope and deliverables with an MOU to be signed.

For more information and submittal, please email [paul.angelone@uli.org](mailto:paul.angelone@uli.org).

## Statement of Interest

District Council(s):

District Council Staff Lead/Contact:

District Council Lead Member(s):

Desired Outcome/Project Scope:

Project Scale (e.g., Neighborhood, Jurisdictional, Regional, Megaregional):

1. Briefly, describe your District Council(s) infrastructure challenges and needs. Please provide background information that would be relevant to understand for this proposal.
2. What specific land use and infrastructure challenge are you proposing that could use technical assistance from the Curtis Infrastructure Initiative?
3. Describe your desired outcomes and goals (theory of change) from this proposal including the key steps or actions that would be needed to accomplish this goal. This should include the type of activity you plan to undertake (e.g., TAP, workshop, Task Force, etc.) to create an actionable project documented in a final report.
4. What is the status of conversations about this technical assistance opportunity with the municipality, or other potential sponsors that can act as an implementing agency? Please list potential partner organizations (such as city agency, business development group, or community-based organization) whom you would invite to be involved and clarify if ULI has partnered with these groups before.
5. How will the \$15,000 grant be allocated (e.g., staff time, TAP or workshop, engagement, meetings) and will it be leveraged with additional dollars?
6. If this grant were renewed, how would you continue to implement your plan of action?
7. Are you willing to participate in a national cohort with other selected proposals (10 hours annually)? This would be a commitment of meeting at least quarterly during the year. Subgroups may meet more regularly.
8. Anything else you think should be included in this proposal (e.g., capacity to implement grant, District Council priorities, or other ongoing HQ technical assistance)?